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EXCERPTED

MARTIN: The latest ABC News-Washington Post poll shows Mr. Reagan leading Mr. Mondale 56-to-40 percent and a growing trust among likely voters that Mr. Reagan can deal with hostile governments. (GRAPHIC: Which one would you trust more in dealing with hostile foreign governments? Reagan: 57 percent; Mondale: 36 percent.) But a former CIA planner and operations officer who has written of East-West tensions, warns that without a change in arms control policy, the Reagan administration could face an accidental war. ARTHUR MACY COX (Soviet affairs consultant): We get to the hair trigger and one side or the other, especially the Soviets because their technology is not as good as ours; their computers are not as good as ours, they can make mistakes. I think the risk-taking that's going on this administration is very, very dangerous.

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